

SOUNDER



Newsletter of the American Fisheries Society, Southern New England Chapter Spring/Summer 1998

The President's Message

Or is that Presidents? This is a unique time of transition between the SNEC Executive Committee. Normally, we change offices at the June Business meeting. Since the Board of Directors (BOD) decided to defer the June meeting so that we could meet in Hartford, the official transfer of the entire ExComm has been delayed. This has been advantageous since the workload for all of us with the upcoming AFS Meeting in Hartford has more than doubled. As such, Chris Powell has been handling much of the Chapter detail work for that meeting (our reception, tee shirts, etc.) and I have been handling the Chapter operations with the great assistance typical from Brian Murphy and Ron Essig. Speaking of Hartford... **AFS 98 - Hartford, Connecticut.** Our Chapter is the host Chapter for the 1998 annual AFS meeting in Hartford from 23–27 August 1998. Paola Ferreri (PA) and Dan Hayes (MI), Program Chairs, worked hard to put together a terrific technical program (see your June *Fisheries* for details). I know both Paola and Dan from my days at Michigan State and many of you also know Dan from his tour of duty at the National Marine Fisheries Service and as a SNEC Board member. With these folks at the helm, we can be guaranteed an exciting and interesting meeting. There should be something for everyone, whether you work on sculpins in headwater streams or blue whales in the ocean, with 12 concurrent sessions and more than 550 papers and posters. In addition, the great efforts Chapter member Chuck Phillips (CT), as the Local Arrangements Chair, promises fun, relaxation, and a productive meeting. In addition to Chuck, many people from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies, companies, and groups within the SNEC are making sure that we have a meeting full of information and invigoration! Please support their hard work and come to the meeting, you will not be disappointed. **Rockfish the Vote!** Sorry but I could not come up with a more “catchy” slogan than MTV. Make sure you take some time to look over the ballot initiative in this issue of *Sounder*. We have an important decision to make as a Chapter regarding the creation of an affiliate member category. In addition, we need to elect a new Secretary-Treasurer for the Chapter. Only one candidate is on the ballot but write-ins are allowed. This will be an even busier post if the affiliate member issue passes. Think over your choices and make sure you vote. If you may not attend the SNEC Business meeting in Hartford, please be sure to mail us your ballot, we would like to have a large electorate! Your voice counts. **It's a Party!** Speaking of the business meeting. We want to invite all members of the SNEC to a reception following our Chapter Business meeting on Wednesday: check your AFS98 program for more details. You won't want to miss our 30th anniversary celebration! **Welcome.** I would like to welcome our new *Sounder* editor Timothy Sheehan. If you are reading this, Tim has done a wonderful job. He has lots of great ideas and has been beating the pavement, and the BOD, for stories. Tim would love to hear from the membership regarding their suggestions and compliments. **Thanks, Mary and Rob.** I would also like to say thank you to Mary Colligan, the departing newsletter editor. Mary did a great and often thankless job. She has really left the newsletter in great shape for Tim with lots of electronic layouts and files to make a hard job just a bit easier. We will miss Mary's energy and work for the BOD. I also want to thank Robert Neumann for his years of Service as Chair of the Education Committee. His perseverance led to the completion of our Chapter Exhibit Board that will be on display in Hartford for the first time. Rob will remain on the BOD as an at large member. **The SNEC Wants You!** I am in the process of recruiting people for the Chapter Board of Directors (BOD) from the region to fill two vacant At-large slots, and Education Chair, and a co-editor position for the Chapter newsletter, *Sounder*. The Chapter needs some new folks on board to facilitate future leadership and increase the flow of new ideas. I think that it is important to the Chapter and the fisheries profession to have some representation on the BOD from each major agency in the region. Look at the BOD list. Is your agency represented? If not please consider joining the BOD.

Look inside to learn about:

- < AFS 98, Hartford, CT
- < Awards, News & Tidbits
- < New member additions
- < Jobs within our region
- < The “Save a Tree” Campaign
- < Upcoming meetings
- < SNEC affiliate member/Sec-Treas vote
- < my message and your BOD

The travel commitment is minimal with two meetings (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) each year that we try to locate centrally. My experiences in the Chapter have introduced me to many people in other agencies that I otherwise would not have met and have enhanced me professionally. The Chapter also serves as a training ground outside your agency for individuals to develop leadership skills and interagency contacts. In addition, Chapter newsletters provide an opportunity for your agency to get your news and ideas out to other agencies and professionals. I hope that you will be able to assist me in this matter and if you have any questions please contact me. Thanks. Enjoy the summer weather with its hectic field seasons and cruise schedules. **See you in Hartford.**

John Kocik, President

Hartford AFS98 is almost here, some last minute details...

T ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

When is my talk? What is there to do at night in Hartford? I heard there is going to be a discussion on "Economic Impacts of Fisheries" at the meeting, is this true? Check out <http://www.fisheries.org/annual98/index.html>. Everything you could ever want to know about the AFS98 Annual Meeting is there.

T MEETING (early registration deadline 7/31/98) and **HOTEL REGISTRATION** (deadline 7/23/98) forms are provided in this issue.

T ATTENTION STUDENTS

The Arrangements & Program Committees for the 1998 AFS meeting in Hartford are seeking students who are willing to 'volunteer' to operate audio-visual equipment during the technical sessions at the meeting! Student projectionists will need to commit to attend a 1-hour training session on Sunday evening (August 23) and to work at least one or two half-day technical sessions. Students will be paid \$30 per half-day session worked (volunteers will still need to register for and pay for the meeting; payment for AV work will be sent after the meeting is over). Volunteering is a great way to reduce the overall cost of the meeting, to get actively involved in the AFS, and to meet fisheries professionals!

Students who are interested in volunteering to operate AV equipment should contact:

Mr. Brad Thompson
Graduate Research Assistant
School of Forest Resources
111 Ferguson Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

E-mail: bet118@psu.edu
Phone: 814-865-1441
FAX: 814-865-3725

E-mail is the best way to get in touch with Brad!! Please include your name, mailing address, phone, fax, email, the sessions/days when you cannot work, and preferred sessions/days (a complete program schedule is available in the June issue of Fisheries or on the AFS homepage - www.fisheries.org).

Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

T ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS, FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND ACQUAINTANCES

SNEC needs your help! We, as a Chapter, are one of the sponsors for this year's annual meeting. We need volunteers to help man the information booth, sell chapter t-shirts (a big money maker for the Chapter), and lend general assistance in a number of different ways. If you have been to an annual meeting before, you know what a difference having a few "locals" around makes to the professional far from home. The annual meeting was last held

in Hartford more than 70 years ago. Let's make it worth the wait. Help out your chapter, the meeting organizers, the parent society, and all of it's members. Please contact Chris Powell for more details:

Chris Powell
RI Dept. Fish and Wildlife
38 Mount Hope Ave.
Jamestown, RI 02835

401-789-0281
cpowell@wsii.com

T DO YOU FEEL LUCKY?

1998 AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY RAFFLE/AUCTION

As the great Yogi Berra is credited with saying, "It's deja vu all over again." Yes, it's almost AFS Raffle time again, and this year's raffle and auction could be the biggest ever held, but only with your help. The Raffle Committee, comprised of representatives from most AFS units, has worked hard to get super prizes from their units as well as from lots of individual members and corporations. As a result, we have so many prizes that we'll have enough for a silent auction at Monday night's Trade Show Social in Hartford, CT, on August 24, 1998.

Join us in Hartford, CT, at the AFS silent auction and you will have a good time. Bid on something for yourself or someone special and contribute to a great cause. We will auction off 1) fishing, hunting, whitewater rafting trips, 2) an original watercolor of a jumping tarpon what was an AFS book cover, 3) several framed wildlife prints, and 4) other "wild" stuff.

You don't have to be a member nor do you have to be present to win fabulous prizes at the all-members raffle. You could win a guided fishing trip (all raffle trips will have expenses paid or substantially covered), a dreamy vacation, or other outdoor adventure in the US and Canada. We also have a great selection of collectibles, including framed stamp/prints, signed and numbered wildlife prints, a Gyo-taku print, and outdoor photography. We have already received donations of wildlife crafts, home furnishings, jewelry, clothing, and other fish paraphernalia. President Bob Carline has carved a black cherry shortfin mako shark specially for this year's raffle. Of course, there will be fishing equipment, computer software, books, and other prizes to be won. But you cannot win unless you buy a ticket.

Each raffle ticket costs \$4 US/ \$5 CAN. If you sell 5 tickets, the LAST TICKET IS FREE. You can keep the 6th ticket or you can sell it and either keep the proceeds or donate it to your favorite AFS subunit. I hope you will buy tickets yourself and sell tickets to your colleagues, friends, and family. For a \$40 US/ \$ 50 CAN donation, you get two books of 6 tickets each plus another 2 tickets. For \$100 US/ \$125 CAN, you get 5 books of 6 tickets plus another book of 6—36 CHANCES TO WIN, 11 FREE TICKETS! Every ticket holder is eligible to win all of the prizes. Ticket stubs with name, address, and phone number should be returned to the Parent Society Office by August 15, 1998 to be sure of making it into the raffle drawing in Hartford, CT, on August 26, 1998. If you would like more tickets please call Marilyn Brown, Unit Services Coordinator, at (301) 897-8616 x201.

If great prizes and free tickets aren't enough incentive to participate in the 1998 AFS raffle and/or auction, perhaps you need to know that all the proceeds will go to an excellent cause—the Skinner Memorial Trust Fund. By awarding our best students with Skinner travel funds to attend AFS annual meetings, they get to know our great fisheries professionals, while we help assure future fisheries and aquatic resource professionals. Help make this year the best-ever raffle and perhaps be a big winner yourself.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Donna D. Turgeon, Chairman
1998 AFS Raffle/Auction

T Get Ready: AFS 2000 is in St. Louis, Missouri

We would like to extend an early invitation to all subunits to participate in the program of the 130th Annual Meeting, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 14-19, 2000. Many of you are doing long range planning for your sections and we want you to consider joining us in St. Louis.

The theme for the meeting will be "Reflections". Our hope is that this theme will provide an opportunity to look back at milestones as well as honestly assess our oversights. One of our goals for this meeting, and for the term

of Chris Moffitt as AFS President (1999-2000), will be to foster greater communications among disciplines. We hope you also consider this as one of your goals, as you plan for the future.

Although there is plenty of time until the official requests for proposals are sent out, and no immediate action needs to be taken now, we request that in your section business meetings and other communications in planning for special sessions, you consider the benefits of joining us in St. Louis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Roger A. Rulifson
Director, Field Station for Coastal Studies at Mattamuskeet
College of Arts and Sciences, Mamie Jenkins Bldg
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
Voice - (252) 328-1757 Fax - (252) 328-4265
RulifsonR@mail.ecu.edu

Julie Claussen
Illinois Natural History Survey
607 E. Peabody
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 244-5113
juliec@uiuc.edu



Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award Winner

The Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is proud to recognize Brian Hanrahan (University of Massachusetts - Amherst) as the winner of the Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award at the Chapter's Winter 1998 meeting in Bristol, Rhode Island. Brian's presentation, "Estimating bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) school size from limited observational data", was co-authored by Francis Juanes of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

Brian's achievement is noteworthy because his presentation was one of eleven outstanding student papers presented at the winter chapter meeting. He is scheduled to present this work at AFS98 in Hartford. Hope you get to see it.

Estimating Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) School Size from Limited Observational Data

Brian Hanrahan and Francis Juanes

Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The feasibility of utilizing aerial photographic assessment to obtain indices of abundance for large medium and giant bluefin has recently received attention from bluefin fishery managers. However, aerial photographs only provide a minimum count of individuals in the school. Knowledge of the relationship between the number of fish seen at the surface and the total number of individuals in a school may refine the accuracy of these data significantly. Bluefin tuna are believed to exhibit the most rigidly defined spatial structure of schooling fishes. Several distinct two dimensional school structures have been described, including parabolas, echelons, cartwheels, surface sheets and densely packed domes, but the structure of schools in three dimensional space has received only cursory attention. The ability to estimate accurately the number of individuals within Atlantic bluefin tuna schools from an aerial

photograph has utility in stock assessment. Estimating unknown school parameters (width, length, depth, total # individuals in a school) will allow more refined estimates of school number as well as refining indices of stock abundance based on such data. The current study analyzes 74 video observations of captive bluefin tuna schools to explore the relationship between number of fish observed at the surface of the school and the total number of fish in the school using least-squares regression. Least-squares regression is also employed to analyze inter-relationships of school dimensions (length, width and depth). The final weighted regression model incorporated the number of fish on the surface layer (N1) and the second layer (N2) of the school as independent variables, and the total number of fish in the school as the dependent variable with 1/s as the weight. This model achieved an r^2 of .89. The unweighted regression model using the depth and width of the school as predictors of the length of the school had an r^2 of .67. A second model using depth and length to predict width of the school had an r^2 of .70. We believe that these results will allow bluefin fishery managers to improve estimates of large medium and giant bluefin tuna abundance based on aerial photographic assessment.

Student Membership Awards

The Southern New England Chapter is pleased to announce recipients of the 1998 Student Membership Awards. Each year the chapter presents Student Membership Awards to up to ten deserving students in the Southern New England area. The program is designed to promote fisheries professionalism among students and to enhance student involvement in chapter activities. The award consists of a one year membership to the American Fisheries Society and the Southern New England Chapter. Applications for the Student Membership Awards can be downloaded from the WWW at: <http://www.wh.who.edu/snecafs/docs/membawrd.htm>

1998 recipients include:

Christopher Baumann-University of Massachusetts

Timothy L. Wildman-University of Connecticut

Allison Ferreira-University of Rhode Island

Greg Whrittenhour-University of Massachusetts

Anthony Wood-Roger Williams University

Special Thanks to Student Paper Judges

At each of its meetings, the Southern New England Chapter evaluates student presentations as part of the Saul B. Salla Best Student Paper Award program. The purpose of this award program is to provide feedback concerning presentation structure and execution, to promote development of oral communication skills among developing fisheries professionals, and to recognize outstanding contributions to the chapter meeting.

Evaluating students papers is a difficult and challenging proposition. Fisheries professionals who serve as Paper Judges at chapter, division, and national level meetings provide an invaluable service in promoting professionalism among our future professionals. The following individuals have served as paper judges at Southern New England Chapter meetings over the past year or so, and deserve recognition for their professional contributions:

Tim Barry, Don Danila, Ruth Haas-Castro, Dennis Erkan, Mary Colligan, Arnie Howe, Penny Howell, Grace Klein-MacPhee, Laurel Ramseyer, Greg Whrittenhour.

U.S. Achieves Conservation Objectives at Recent International Meeting on Atlantic Salmon

Agreements reached at the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in June eliminate commercial fisheries for Atlantic salmon in the northwest Atlantic. The parties agreed to allow a fishery in Greenland for internal use only, no

export of salmon will be allowed. At the meeting, Canada announced the placement of a moratorium on the commercial fishery in Labrador.

“The significance of these actions cannot be overstated,” said the head of the U.S. delegation, Dr. Andy Rosenberg. “The wild salmon stocks are at perilous levels and require the strongest conservation measures. Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) and Canada worked with us in taking this precautionary action.”

NASCO addressed a number of other issues relating to Atlantic salmon conservation including the Precautionary Approach to salmon management. Under such an approach, inadequate scientific information will not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take adequate conservation and management measures. During the meeting, NASCO endorsed the Precautionary Approach to Atlantic salmon management and made significant progress in developing a plan for its implementation. The United States strongly supports the application of the precautionary approach in fisheries management. [provided by Mary Colligan]

Oregon Coast Coho - State Conservation Plans and the ESA

In 1996 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed a listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for Oregon coast coho. In 1997 the NMFS withdrew the proposed rule stating that listing was not warranted due in part to the strength of a Conservation Plan proposed by the state of Oregon. The Oregon Natural Resources Council has lead an effort challenging the NMFS decision arguing that a federal listing adds the regulatory teeth that the Plan alone lacks. On June 1, 1998, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon ruled in favor of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, et al. The Magistrate Judge ordered the NMFS to reconsider its decision to withdraw its proposal to list Oregon Coast coho salmon as a threatened species under the federal ESA.

The NMFS responded to the ruling by reaffirming its view of state conservation plans as vital building blocks to prevent imperiled salmon and their habitat. Terry Garcia, Commerce Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere stated that “The best chance for salmon and steelhead recovery is through collaborative federal and state efforts that effectively involve local governments and the private sector.” The NMFS is reviewing the ruling and will decide whether to appeal in the next few weeks.

The ruling contained the strong message that provisions of Conservation Plans must be adequate to deal with threats and must be implemented immediately. The judge stated that voluntary or future conservation efforts by a state should be given no weight in a listing decision. The opinion stated that the NMFS must base its decision on the ability of current enforceable measures to avoid and minimize threats to the species.

The ruling could have the effect of derailing the governor’s Oregon Plan for saving coastal coho. Concern has been expressed that the Plan relies heavily on money from the timber industry which would not be contributed if the fish are listed. In addition, the decision has raised concern in Maine over a similar decision for Atlantic salmon. Although the details of the two cases are quite different, the NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew a proposed listing for Atlantic salmon under the ESA due in part to protective measures contained in the Conservation Plan for Atlantic Salmon in Seven Maine Rivers. [provided by Mary Colligan]

Two-Year Winter Flounder Stock ID Study to Begin in 1998

The New York Sea Grant Program has just funded Ike Wirgin, of the Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine, and John Waldman, of the Hudson River Foundation, to conduct a two-year study of mitochondrial DNA in young-of-year winter flounder. The purpose of the study is to identify genetically distinct spawning groups in New England and mid-Atlantic estuaries. The emphasis in the first year will be on characterizing genetic differences among reference spawning stocks from the Canadian maritimes to Delaware. In year two, the emphasis will shift to estimating the relative contributions of individual or regional stocks on Nantucket Shoals and in Block Island Sound. The relative contribution of the numerous inshore spawning grounds to the coastwide population of winter flounder is of great interest to state and federal managers trying to protect this species in the midst of the high stakes issues of offshore groundfish fisheries management. Inshore habitat protection and restoration projects also hinge on the results of this study. [provided by Penny Howell]

Multi-state Salmon Restoration Program Under Review

No one can argue that the Connecticut River ecosystem has improved since the Atlantic salmon restoration program began in 1967, but many people are concerned over the high costs associated with the restoration effort. This program presently involves the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, as well as federal biologists. Project personnel have gained a great deal of knowledge about salmon and salmon habitat in the last thirty years, but not enough to increase returns above 250 fish per year, after a peak of 529 in 1981. The flat returns have many questioning the future success of the multi-million dollar project. Based on current return rates, the restoration program spends about \$9,000 per fish. A public informational hearing was held in Hartford last April to discuss a new strategic plan for the restoration effort. Strong sentiment both in favor and in opposition to the project was heard. However, even those opposed to the large expenditures agree that the restoration project has been the driving justification for numerous clean-up efforts and fishway projects which otherwise wouldn't have been completed. Thanks to these improvements many different fish species including American shad, walleye, herring and striped bass thrive in the river. People interested in finding out more about the new strategic plan should write to Janice Rowan, Connecticut River Coordinator, USF&WS, 103 East Plumtree Road, Sunderland MA 01375. [provided by Penny Howell]

Landmark Agreement Reached for Removal of Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine

A landmark agreement has been reached between private industry, environmental groups, and federal, state and local governments to remove Edwards Dam and to restore fish runs in the Kennebec River. The removal of this dam will permit runs of Atlantic salmon, American shad, alewives, blueback herring, striped bass, rainbow smelt, Atlantic sturgeon and endangered shortnose sturgeon to access prime spawning areas and begin the rebuilding process.

The settlement, which preserves intact a precedent-setting dam removal order for the Edwards Dam issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in November 1997, requires Edwards Manufacturing Company and the City of Augusta to surrender the dam to the state of Maine. The state will use funds from two principal sources to remove the dam. A group of hydropower dam operators, the Kennebec Hydro Developers Group, will pay \$4.75 million in exchange for postponing the installation of fish passages at upstream dams. The need for passage at these dams has been delayed from previous schedules because of the blockage created by the Edwards Dam. Also, Bath Iron Works will pay \$2.5 million towards dam removal as compensation for a shipyard expansion project that involves dredging and filling in the lower Kennebec. [provided by Mary Colligan]

Excerpt taken from:

Fishing quotas often a crap shoot
Earthfile: Stock assessments often based on sketchy data, wishful thinking
By Suzanne Zolfo, MSNBC (<http://www.msnbc.com/news/138339.asp>)

The National Marine Fisheries Service has conducted groundfish surveys off the Pacific coast once every three

years since 1977 — giving them only seven data points on which to base their stock assessments.

“We are quite data poor,” concedes Richard Methot, the director of the fishery resource analysis and monitoring division of NMFS in Seattle. Fishermen, fishery managers and federal researchers all want more data, but the money needed to conduct more frequent surveys has not been available — and does not appear to be forthcoming, either. “A federal agency cannot lobby Congress,” Methot points out. “There are conflicting priorities for the whole nation.” Much of the federal money dedicated for fisheries research is spent in New England, where surveys are conducted twice and sometimes three times a year.

Unlike the Pacific Council, which has largely followed the recommendations of Methot’s agency over the years, the New England Fishery Management Council had failed to set limits on the species that the surveys indicated were declining.

So while adequate data may be necessary, it is clearly not a panacea that ensures a sustainable fishery.

Internships and Volunteering Can Often Pay Off in BIG Ways

Nicole Wallace, a biology major at the University of New Hampshire, is spending the summer at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole. Nickie is conducting research which will serve as the basis for her senior honors thesis. Research objectives include a retrospective analysis of Georges Bank haddock growth dynamics back to 1931. Her research has uncovered heretofore unanalyzed haddock maturity data from the 1930's as well as rare temperature data for Georges Bank during that decade from archived material! [provided by Jay Burnett]

Offshore Trawler Riots (It can always get worse)

On June 24, 1998, about 500 fishermen rioted, burning 8 trawlers and 3 warehouses in Gabion, near the port of Belawan in north Sumatra, Indonesia, and expressing frustration over local authorities' inability to keep large trawlers from encroaching on nearshore fishing areas. [Reuters, Asia One/Singapore Press]

Sustainable Fisheries Initiative

On June 12, 1998, President Clinton announced that he is proposing an additional \$194 million over 5 years to reduce overfishing and protect essential fish habitat. Such funding would finance 3 state-of-the-art fishery research vessels, increase research and promote public-private partnerships to develop aquaculture, and help restore depleted fish stocks within 10 years. [White House press release]

Indian Clamming Rights

On June 11, 1998, a MA state appeals court reversed a lower court decision and ruled that members of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe could not be prosecuted for subsistence clamming contrary to town ordinances prohibiting clamming on certain days. Aboriginal fishing rights were ruled to be valid under the 1749 Treaty of Falmouth. [Reuters]

Fisherman on Wheaties Box (*There is hope for us yet!!!*)

On June 18, 1998, bass fisherman Denny Brauer of Camdenton, MO, was announced as bass fishing's Wal-Mart FLW Tour's points champion and became the first angler to be featured on a Wheaties cereal box. [Dow Jones News]

New Members

Please join the Board of Director's in welcoming two of our newest AFS/SNEC members, **Rebecca Jordan** of UMASS, Amherst and **Michael D. Wilcox** from Manchester, CT. May you both enjoy a long and fruitful relationship with AFS/SNEC.

Also, please accept our apologies for recent additions to our membership list that have not been listed here. We have been experiencing technical difficulties.

Vacancies

Population Dynamicists: Stock Assessment Scientists

The Population Dynamics Branch of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts seeks to fill several key positions for Population Dynamicists/Stock Assessment Scientists, to conduct research on single and multispecies fisheries. Incumbents should have strong quantitative skills (statistics, mathematics and computer applications), as applied to natural resource problems. Starting salary range is \$46-65k, contingent upon training and experience. The Branch is responsible for meeting critical U.S. national and international demands for scientific information necessary to manage about 50 resource stocks in the region, and maintains extensive historical data on fish stocks and their environment.

For an application package call or write the Office of Personnel Management before the closing date (7/27/98) of this announcement at: The Raleigh Service Center, 4407 Bland Road, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27609. Telephone: 919-790-2822; website: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For specific details on the positions, contact: Dr. Steven Murawski, Chief, Population Dynamics Branch, National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, MA 02543, phone: 508- 495-2303, fax: 508-495-2393, e-mail: Steve.Murawski@noaa.gov.

Post-Doctoral Position: Multi-Species Predator-Prey Modeling for Marine Fishes of the Northwest Atlantic
Affiliation: NRC Research Fellow at the NMFS, Woods Hole Laboratory
This is a 1-year position, with a second year renewal possible contingent upon funding.

Over the last three decades, the Northwest Atlantic ecosystem has undergone dramatic changes in biomass partitioning, fisheries production, and species composition. The response of this fish community to sustained

SAVE A TREE, SAVE THE CHAPTER SOME \$\$\$, and MAKE MY JOB A LOT EASIER

You have three options:

- (1) hard copy mailed to you
- (2) copy sent as an attachment to an e-mail message
- (3) access it on the SNEC homepage (an e-mail will be sent to you alerting you that the newsletter has been posted).

Let me know.....and please include your mailing address in your response.

Timothy Sheehan
(508) 495-2215 or tsheehan@whsun1.wh.whoi.edu

Thank you for your consideration!!!

perturbations is directly related to intra- and interspecific interactions. Thus, we research the feeding ecology of the fish in this community to evaluate critical linkages between ecologically and economically valuable stocks. Particularly, we have executed field and laboratory studies that are coupled with a temporally and spatially broadscale (>30 years) survey to assess ecosystem dynamics and to quantify predator-prey interactions. Critical to the enhancement of our understanding and management of this ecosystem is the development of multi-species models, emphasizing the magnitude of natural mortality (i.e. predator-prey interactions) relative to fishing mortality. Modeling activities associated with our food habits database include multi-species VPA, time-series analyses, structural dynamic models, and classical food web analyses. Application and extension of these or other models are encouraged, with the ultimate goal being a highly interactive series of models useful for real-time simulation to evaluate the consequences on the yield, productivity and community structure that alternative harvesting strategies might have on important species in this ecosystem. Thus, the primary focus of this post-doctoral appointment will be to develop multi-species models that simulate species interactions in this community. Model construction, programming, execution, and validation will be done in conjunction with the staff, goals, and activities of the Food Web Dynamics Program.

Opportunities also exist for both routine and specified field and laboratory studies as needed within the Food Web Dynamics Program.

For more information on the application procedure, position description, or other technical questions please contact Dr. Jason Link, Food Web Dynamics Program, NMFS, NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543, 508-495-2340, Jason.Link@noaa.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

Jul 25-29	43rd Atlantic Fisheries Technology Conference , "Transformation in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Global Perspectives", St. John's Newfoundland, Canada
Jul 26-30	2nd International Congress on the Biology of Fishes , Baltimore, MD
Aug 2-6	83rd Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America , Baltimore, MD
Aug 10-11	New England Fishery Management Council [NEFMC] Meeting , Peabody, MA
Aug 13-15	Conference , "Bridging Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ecosystem Science", Flagstaff, AZ
Aug 23-27	128th Annual Meeting, American Fisheries Society , Hartford, CT
Aug 25-28	ICES Symposium , "Brackish Water Ecosystems", Helsinki, Finland
Sep 9-11	NAFO Symposium , "Variations in Maturation, Growth, Condition, and Spawning Stock Biomass Production in Groundfish", Lisbon, Portugal
Sep 14-18	NAFO 1998 Annual Meeting , Lisbon, Portugal
Sep 16-17	New England Fishery Management Council [NEFMC] Meeting , Gloucester, MA
Sep 16-19	ICES 1998 Annual Science Conference , Cascais, Portugal
Sep 23-24	New England Fishery Management Council [NEFMC] Meeting , Fairhaven, MA
Sep 23-26	International Workshop , "Environmental and Climatic Variations and their Impacts in the North Atlantic Region", Reykjavik, Iceland
Sep 25-26	Milford Laboratory Open House , Milford, CT
Oct 5-7	ICES Symposium , "Marine Benthos Dynamics: Environmental & Fisheries Impacts", Crete, Greece
Oct 15-17	Fish Expo , Boston, MA
Oct 21-24	International Symposium , "Arctic Seas: Currents of Change", Mystic, CT
Nov 4-6	2nd International Mote Symposium , "Essential Fish Habitat and Marine Reserves", Sarasota, FL
Nov 16-19	Ocean Community Conference '98 , Baltimore, MD
Dec 1-2	NMFS/NEFSC Flatfish Biology Workshop , Mystic, CT

The workshop is the sixth in a series that began in 1986 dealing with Northeastern Atlantic flatfishes. Individuals conducting research on various flatfishes may present their findings to others interested in gaining a better understanding of flatfish biology. Of particular emphasis this year will be research activities related to essential fish habitat for species covered under Fishery Management Plans, including the American plaice, Atlantic halibut, and the witch, yellowtail, summer, winter, and windowpane flounders. However, oral presentations or posters on any aspect of flatfish biology will be considered by the organizing committee, with the exception of stock assessment, which is covered by other workshops. Persons who have not received a prior mailing and are interested in attending or presenting a paper should contact Dr. Anthony Calabrese of NMFS-Milford Laboratory (anthony.calabrese@noaa.gov), 212 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460-6499. Abstracts are due no later than July 31, 1998. Further details will be provided in September and will be available on the Milford Laboratory home page at <http://www.mi.nmfs.gov>.

Jan 24-27, 99 **The First National Conference on Marine BioInvasions**, MIT; Cambridge, MA.

The focus will be on biological invasions of exotic species in coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems. An emphasis will be on ballast water research and management, ecological and genetic consequences of invasions, diversity in time and space, transport vectors (unintentional and intentional), economic costs and status of predictive tools for assisting managers. Abstracts Due 9/1/98. For more information jpederso@mit.edu or <http://massbay.mit.edu/exoticspecies/conference>.

Sep 8-10, 99 **International NAFO/ICES/PICES Symposium on Pandalid Shrimp Fisheries**, “*Science and Management at the Millenium*”, Halifax, N.S..

Contact P. Koeller, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, N.S., Canada B2Y 4A2; t: 1-902-426-5379; f: 1-902-426-1862; <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/shrimp>.

American Fisheries Society **Southern New England Chapter Board of Director's**

Executive Committee:

President: John Kocik (MA-NMFS)
President Elect: Brian D. Murphy (CT- DEP)
Secretary-Treasurer: *VACANT*
Past President: Chris Powell (RI-DF&W)

Board of Director's:

Education Chair: Rob Neumann (CT-UConn, until 8/26/98)
Environmental Affairs Committee Co-Chairs: Ruth Haas-Castro (MA-NMFS), Penny Howell

(CT-DEP)

Fisheries Information Network Chair: Penny Howell (CT-DEP)
Professionalism Chair: Russell Brown (MA-NMFS)
Program Development Chair: Lisa Meng (RI-EPA)
Student Affairs Committee Chair: Greg Whritenour (MA-UMass)
Newsletter Editor: Tim Sheehan (MA-NMFS)
Publicity Officer: Don Danila (CT- NEU)
CT Fisheries Advisory Council Representative: Linda Bireley (CT-NEU)

At-large Board of Directors Members:

Ron Essig (MA-USFWS)
Carolyn Griswold (RI-NMFS)
Rick Jacobson (CT-CT DEP)

*******Decision Time Is Here: Affiliate Membership or Not?*******

During the past year, the SNEC Executive Committee and Board of Directors has been discussing the advantages and disadvantages of allowing non-AFS members to become Chapter members. Of the 50+ chapters in the US and Canada there are only three that still require AFS membership in order to be a Chapter member. This issue was discussed at length with SNEC membership at the annual chapter business meeting last June in Woods Hole. The Board of Directors feels that it is time to vote on this issue. To assist you with your choice, we are reprinting the summary of the advantages and disadvantages of affiliate membership as expressed by SNEC members (for additional points see the last issue of Sounder). Approval needs a 2/3 majority vote of those present at the SNEC business meeting in Hartford or voting by mail. If you may not attend the Hartford Business meeting **please be sure to mail in your ballot**. This is an important issue and we would like to have a large electorate! Thanks.

ADVANTAGES:

- , The Chapter would serve a larger audience and meet the needs of many fisheries professionals who choose not to join AFS for any number of reasons, but would probably join the Chapter.
- , We could actively recruit affiliate members for AFS through a positive experience with the Chapter.
- , Affiliate membership would increase Chapter revenues. This is important if the parent society continues to eliminate chapter rebates which constitute a substantial portion of our annual SNEC budget.
- , SNEC membership would be affordable to a broader audience especially lower salaried employees and students.
- , We could broaden our membership to secondary fields like engineering, wildlife and education.

DISADVANTAGES:

- , Non-AFS affiliate chapter membership could pull present and potential members away from the parent society and eventually weaken the parent society.
- , Affiliate members would not receive parent society publications, an important aspect of maintaining a level of professionalism.
- , Chapter would have to collect dues from these members and generate its own mailing list and labels for non-AFS members. Presently, the parent society provides these services.
- , Affiliate membership could create a perceived double standard and possibly conflict with some members.
- , Potential decline in professionalism, affiliate members may not be as dedicated as regular members.

Official Southern New England Chapter American Fisheries Society 1998 Ballot

Vote for one person for the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

9 Russell W. Brown

Russell Brown earned a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Cornell University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Fisheries from Michigan State University. He has worked as a Fishery Research Biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole since 1994. He has principal responsibility for conducting stock assessments of Georges Bank haddock and winter flounder. In addition, his research interests include the use of fishery closures and marine protected areas in fisheries management.

Russell is a Life Member of the American Fisheries Society, and has actively participated at the chapter, division, and parent society levels of the society. At the Chapter and Division levels, he has served as Cornell Student Chapter Vice President, Michigan Chapter Student Concerns Committee Chair, Southern New England Chapter Professionalism Committee Chair, and North-Central Division Student Affairs Committee Chair. At the Parent Society level, he served as Assistant Science Editor for Fisheries magazine, and as a member of the Canadian Concerns, Native Peoples' Fisheries, and Professionalism Parent Committees. In addition, he is completing terms as the North East Division Representative for the Marine and Education sections this summer. He is also the Symposium Chair for the 1998 Hartford AFS Meeting.

Russell has also expressed the opinion that the Secretary-Treasurer election is the second most important (of two decisions) on the chapter's 1998 Ballot stating "clearly, the Affiliate Membership question has the potential to redefine both the chapter membership and required membership services". Regardless of the outcome of the affiliate member question, Russell hopes to contribute his ideas and leadership to continue the outstanding work of the Southern New England Chapter in promoting professionalism among fisheries scientists, managers, students and other professionals.

9 Write In _____

Vote Yes or No to the addition of an affiliate member status for the Southern New England Chapter.

9 Yes, the SNEC should add an affiliate membership category that would allow people that are not members of the American Fisheries Society to join the Chapter in an affiliate status (can not vote or serve as an officer of the Chapter).

9 No, the SNEC should allow only people that are members of the American Fisheries Society to become members of the Chapter.

Please return this ballot *****by August 17***** to:

Brian D. Murphy, SNEC Secretary - Treasurer
CT Dept. Environmental Protection
Fisheries Division
209 Hebron Avenue
Marlborough, CT 06447